Bairluty range of Atmakur division in Nagarjun Sagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve. According to the postmortem report, the tiger appears to have died due to strangulation. Five persons have been arrested for setting up the snare which caused strangulation of the tiger to death. The culprits had also cut 3 paws of the tiger to remove the nails. A criminal case has been filed against the offenders in the court.

Poaching in Corbett National Park

652. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so much poaching is going on unabated in the Corbett National Park, that the Deputy Ranger was killed and some forest guards were injured by the poachers some time in the last week of August, 2001;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for the failure of measures taken so far and the security arrangements, to check poaching of protected animals in various parts of the country; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to tackle the ever-growing poaching problem in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Six instances of poaching of elephants between 21th December, 2000 and 10th February, 2001 were reported by Uttaranchal Government. Consequent to these killings, infrastructure has been beefed up and elaborate combing of the forests has been done. In one such exercise, Deputy Ranger Shri Bipin Chandra Pandey lost his life in an encounter with miscreants on 28th August, 2001 and 3 other forest officials were injured.

(c) Parts and products of elephant, tiger and panther, musk pods, bear bile have very lucrative price in the illegal market across our borders and in many developed countries. The high pecuniary gains have created a large network of organised mafias across the country. The limited staff within the forest department and lack of adequate mobility, effective communication network, technical skills in intelligence gathering for detection of poaching cases and delayed

prosecution in courts are major limitations before the forest officials in meeting the increasing challenge of poaching and illegal trade.

(d) The efforts made for protection of tiger and other wildlife in the country are:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) act, 1972.

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the State under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

Felling green trees in Delhi

†653. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that green trees have been cut for an office in Delhi where people are already struggling against the environment problem;

(b) whether Government would conduct any enquiry into this incident; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.